

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement included in the Office Action mailed March 19, 2008, Applicants elect with traverse Species 2 allegedly related to the embodiment shown in FIG 7. The Examiner indicated that claims 3-9, 14-16, and 34-35 are deemed to correspond to Species 2, and where the remaining claims are deemed to correspond to the following species:

Species 1 corresponding to FIG 3: claims 3-4, 6-7 and 14-15;

Species 3 corresponding to FIG 9: claims 3-4, 10-13 and 14-15;

Species 4 corresponding to FIG 11: claims 6 and 17-21;

Species 5 corresponding to FIG 13: claims 4, 6-7, 14-15 and 23-25;

Species 6 corresponding to FIG 17: claims 3-4, 6-7, 23 and 27-28; and

Claim 36 seems to have no corresponding structural figure.

The Examiner states that claims 1-2 and 29-33 are generic. It is believed that claim 36 is also generic.

Claims 1-36 remain in this application, where claims 10-13 and 17-28 have been withdrawn by this Amendment.

It is believed that claims 1-36 should all be examined on the merits.

Applicants' traversal is based at least on the fact that identified the embodiments are so closely related that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden.

MPEP § 803 - Restriction - When Proper

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Applicants' traversal is based at least on the fact that a search encompassing the embodiments of elected Species 2, such as claims 3-9, 14-16, and 34-35, are so closely related to claims 10-13 and 17-28 associated with Species 1 and 3-6, that the search and examination of Species 2, claims 3-9, 14-16, and 34-35 necessitates a search of the elements encompassed by claims 10-13 and 17-28 associated with Species 1 and 3-6. In fact, due to the nature and relationship of the claim elements, a search of the Species 2 claims will likely encompass prior art related to the claims associated with Species 1 and 3-6. Accordingly, a search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious

PATENT

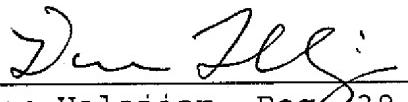
Serial No. 10/542,903

Amendment in Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2008

burden. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-36 fulfill the requirement of unity of invention in that claims 1-36 are linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of the application on its merits are now respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
April 18, 2008

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101